advantage of rebuilding this long patched-up bridge, and, I may add, *abortively so*, is admitted; but the economy of doing so, by reserving the present line of approaches, and the ingenuity displayed by the "Practical Observer," is not the less deserving of emulation; the merit of *finding fault*, or submitting other modes of remedying the present evil, is still open, it is hoped, not only to the great "B.," but the whole alphabet of scientific men, their assistants, and their assistants' assistants' best energies, so as to produce in the reconstruction a work of art and science worthy of this great city. With the fullest assurance of respect to your correspondent "B.," I beg to state in reply to his inquiries, that I am really

A Civil Engineer of the G. W. R.

ARCHITECTURAL VOLUTES.

Sir,—Having lately been excessively bothered with Ionic volutes, I think it would greatly benefit not only myself, but a large class of architectural pupils, if you would request some of your correspondents to furnish you with the best methods known to them, and in what works they may be found; or perhaps, if not asking too much, you might find room to insert at least one or two of the best, and I am quite sure it would be conferring a great benefit on the architectural world in general, and on pupils in particular. I have tried Nicholson, but find it utterly impossible to attend to the decimals and logarithms in scales so small as those to which most of our drawings are made. I have also tried the volute inserted in the *Civil Engineer and Architects' Journal* for this month, but it is so complex, and so intolerably carelessly described, that it is impossible to make any thing out of it. Wishing long life and success to The Builder,

I am, yours obediently,

An Architectural Pupil.

Sir,—I should be greatly obliged if informed through the medium of your valuable journal, which is the best method of hanging sympathetic folding-doors; and whether the proper apparatus is sold by any one.

I am, Sir,

Your well-wisher and constant reader,

J. W. P.

Miscellanea.

Curious Phenomenon.—A good many years since a breast-wall or quay was built at Ardentallan, in Argyleshire, for shipping stones from a quarry at which much work has been done. When Mr. David Smith, builder, at Oban, was erecting the beacon of Skervuil, in Jura Sound, for the Northern Lights' Board, he fitted the courses of blocks for that work to their places on the quay, and has occasionally had upwards of 200 tons of stone upon it at a time, without accident. The quarry has lately been worked for the repairs of the Caledonian Canal, and on the 23rd ult. there were between 170 and 180 tons of dressed stones lying upon the quay ready for shipment, when, to the astonishment of the quarriers, the crane upon the quay was observed to move and shake without any visible cause, and some openings appeared at the surface of the quay, which were rapidly widening; the men on the instant cried out for the foreman, who rushed to the spot, and saw the quay, with its crane and the cairn of blocks upon it, moving outwards from the shore, and sinking in the deep water; and in less than two hours the whole had proceeded seaward about 50 yards, and settled with a depth of 11 feet water over them. This quay was 48 yards in length, and had a large space behind for arranging materials for shipment. The face wall was founded one foot under the lowest tide-mark, upon a bed of strong blue clay, covered with a thin stratum of gravel; and at 100 yards from the site of the quay the water deepens to 4 fathoms. It is remarkable, that with much heavier loads, this breast-work should have stood so long without any apparent failure, and after the foundation was so much consolidated, that it should have completely left its site and settled in deep water. The whole mass is now so completely absorbed in mud and clay, that although the height of the quarry and materials could not be less than 20 feet, it has not lessened the depth of water at the entrance of the place.—*Scotsman.*

Destruction of Hillingdon-house.—Hillingdon-house, the seat of Mr. R. H. Cox, has been destroyed by fire; the bare walls alone are standing. We are happy to learn that nearly the whole of the costly furniture has been preserved, the principal portion uninjured. The whole is deposited in an extensive green-house in the park, in the stables, and at the houses of Mr. Mills and Mr. Greville. The valuable pictures are also safe, as is also the extensive library, the whole of which (seven waggon-loads) were removed to the premises of Mr. Lake, bookseller, at Uxbridge, for the purpose of being cleaned and arranged. The engines continued to work upon the ruins during the night, under the directions of Gerrard and Bailey, two of the London Brigade, who were despatched to Hillingdon on Sunday evening, on the intelligence of the fire reaching Mr. Braidwood. From an early hour of the morning until nightfall yesterday, hundreds of persons of all classes visited the ruins, which still emitted volumes of smoke. No portion of the mansion remains but the bare walls, and some portions of the inner ones have fallen during the night, and have forced in the roof of the ale-cellar, which contained nearly 300*l.* worth of fine ales. Some portion was destroyed by the barrels bursting, but sixteen large double butts were observed amongst the ruins, which appeared to be uninjured. Beyond the ale-cellar is the wine-cellar, which contained a splendid stock of old wines, the whole of which is believed to be comparatively uninjured. All classes of persons unite in expressing a strong and warm feeling of sympathy with Mr. Cox and his family in consequence of the calamity, that gentleman and his lady being highly respected and esteemed throughout the district for their kindness and amiable qualities. The whole of the servants have been great sufferers, having lost all their clothes, money, &c., it having been impossible to save any of the property in the upper rooms. Mrs. Mills has given each of the female servants 2*l.* to enable them to obtain change of linen, &c. Mr. Cox, with the Earl of March, Mr. Mills, and other members of the family, were about the ruins immediately after the fire, engaged in giving directions, &c.

The New Peal of Twelve Bells for York Minster.—*A suggestion from Hull.*—In accordance with the munificent bequest of the late Dr. Beckwith, of York, the Minster Restoration Committee have directed an eminent bell-founder (Mears, of London) to complete a peal of twelve musical bells; the tenor bell to be 53 cwt., in the grand key of C. Mr. Thomas Dykes, jun., of Hull, has thrown out a suggestion on the subject, which has been published in some of the York papers. He says—"It has long been my opinion that the bells of York Minster were not in accordance with the dignity of the capital of the largest county in the kingdom, and of the most magnificent cathedral, perhaps, in Europe. The tenor bell of York Minster is C. Let us keep up the honour of the place. C is very well for the parish church of Leeds, but not for the cathedral of York. A peal of twelve bells in A, and the clock bell, or 'Great Tom,' in F, would be an harmonious treat to the inhabitants of York and the circumjacent country. The musical effect of a deep-toned bell cannot be surpassed. Let an inhabitant of York, whose ears have been well saturated with the C of its minster, go to Lincoln and catch the A as it undulates from her Lady Tower. No words can describe the witchery of that tone, or rather combination of tones. Here is a fine specimen of a chord formed by the harmonics; and if so in A, what would be the effect in F? for the deeper the tone, the more perfect the harmonics. I should then recommend a peal of twelve bells in A, with a 'Great Tom' F, or rather, I would say, a peal of thirteen bells in A, one of which should be a half-note, as in the parish church of Leeds, by which arrangement another key-note is gained, and if four of the ringers should be absent, eight might ring in the key of E."

Sir Walter Scott's Monument at Edinburgh.—On Monday last a meeting of the contributors to the intended monument to Sir W. Scott was held in the New Music-hall, Edinburgh, the Lord Provost in the chair. The chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to increase the fund, which had fallen short, chiefly on account of the expense attendant upon a proper preparation of the site, which required to be raised to a level with Princes-street. The height of the monument was designed to be 182 feet—the money in hand would only raise it to the summit of the pinnacles of the abutment towers, 102 feet; thus leaving 80 feet of the upper part unbuilt, to complete which would require 3,000*l.* In addition to the funds already subscribed. Sir T. Dick Lauder then read letters of apology, and remittances towards the object of the meeting, from his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, 50*l.*; Viscount Melville, 20*l.*; the Lord Advocate, 10*l.*; Mr. M. Innes, 20*l.*; the Earl of Stair, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Mr. Campbell, of Blythswood, 10*l.* 10*s.*; and from Lord J. Stewart, Mr. G. Trail, M.P., Mr. Ramsay, of Barnton, M.P., &c. Professor Wilson, in a most eloquent speech, moved the first resolution. An enthusiastic spirit pervaded the meeting, and there is little doubt of the necessary funds being raised almost immediately. Upwards of 500*l.* was subscribed before the meeting broke up.

Canal Between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.—A project has been brought forward for cutting a "canal of the Pyrenees," to connect the Mediterranean with the Atlantic, and avoid the circuitous route by the coast of Spain. The plan, as it at present stands, was first matured by M. Galabert, member of the French Chamber of Deputies. The French legislature granted to a company that was to carry it into execution the property in perpetuity in the canal, with several other advantages, but required a deposit of 3,000,000*f.* until the act was passed. The subscriptions were completed, and the company was in active operation. In consequence of this deposit not having been made, the grant has remained subject to forfeiture; but, nevertheless, the scheme has not been abandoned, and the notion exists of raising capital in England. There is no occasion to enter at present into a subject which is so far from mature, but it is as well to remark, that the particulars up to the present time are contained in a pamphlet written by Mr. Bush.

Rapid Increase of Population in Manchester.—It would scarcely be credited, at the first avowal, that the population of this town has increased more than *eleven fold* within living memory, were not the fact easy of proof. The Rev. William Turner, formerly of Newcastle, but now a resident of Manchester, in speaking on a recent occasion of the interest he took in the welfare of this town, said that when he first knew it, it had a population of not more than about 27,000 individuals! In the year 1778, there was a sort of census, not an estimate, but an actual enumeration of the inhabitants of Manchester and Salford, in short of all that is classed under the general name of Manchester, and the numbers were stated to be 27,246. By the official census, in June, 1841, the numbers of the same aggregation of buildings were upwards of 308,000, an increase of more than *eleven times* that of the year 1778.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Bath.—The consecration of the cemetery at Lyncombe was solemnized last week by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Salisbury. Nature seems to have marked this secluded site for the very purpose to which it is now happily dedicated. The carriage-road, diverging from the public thoroughfare to Prior Park, by a gradual and easy ascent, sheltered by majestic elms, terminates in an edifice of the purely Anglo-Norman style of architecture, in front of which there is a spacious area, commanding one of the finest views of the city of Bath, embracing a *coup-d'œil* of the public buildings, squares, parades, crescents, and masses of building, more perfect than can be obtained from any other point. The soil is rich, but not deep, resting on a substratum of crumbling oolite, in every respect suitable for a cemetery.—*Bath Gazette.*

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